

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7710

EXDIS

DAR PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

DEPT ATTENTION OC - MR. GENDRON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ZAIRE

REF: SECTO 27059

1. SHOULD THE SECRETARY CHOOSE TO VISIT LUBUMBASHI, THE CAPITAL OF ZAIRE'S COPPER BELT, THE GOZ WILL TURN THE TOWN INSIDE OUT TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. BEING THE HEADQUARTERS FOR GECAMINES, ZAIRE'S HUGE GOVERNMENT-OWNED COPPER MINING COMPANY, LUBUMBASHI IS PROBABLY BETTER EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THE SECRETARY'S VISIT THAN ANY OTHER REGIONAL CENTER OF ZAIRE; COMMUNICATIONS MAY BE SOMETHING OF A PROBLEM, HOWEVER.

2. AIRCRAFT: LUBUMBASHI REGULARLY RECEIVES DC-10 FLIGHTS AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR THE SECRETARY'S 707. WE WOULD ENSURE THAT APPROPRIATE GENERATOR AND AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS BE AVAILABLE TO SERVICE SECRETARY'S AIRCRAFT.

3. ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION: LUBUMBASHI BOASTS A NEW 250-ROOM HOTEL WHICH IS VIRTUALLY EMPTY, AND WE FORESEE NO PROBLEMS FOR ACCOMMODATION OF THE PARTY AND SUPPORT STAFFS. WHEN
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THE PRESIDENT FIRST MENTIONED LUBUMBASHI, HE BRIEFLY RAISED

POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING UP SECRETARY IN GUEST HOUSE; HOWEVER, WE SUGGEST HOTEL WOULD BE FAR PREFERABLE IN THIS CASE. WE PRESUME THE GOZ AND GECAMINES WILL BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH SUFFICIENT VEHICLES, ALTHOUGH SOME DOUBLING UP WILL BE NECESSARY.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND TELEPHONES: BOTH A CAN-DO PACKAGE AND THE TTS ARE HERE IN KINSHASA AND COULD BE TRANSPORTED TO LUBUMBASHI. PRESUMABLY IF THE SECRETARY DECIDED ON THE LUBUMBASHI OPTION, THE GOZ WILL HELP US OUT WITH SOME C-130'S TO MOVE SOME OF OUR SUPPORT FROM KINSHASA TO LUBUMBASHI. HOWEVER, TELEX AND TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN KINSHASA AND LUBUMBASHI ARE VIA AN ANTIQUE WAVE SYSTEM WHICH OPERATES AT BEST TWO HOURS PER DAY. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED ONLY BY RADIO CONTACT. THERE IS ONE SLIGHT POSSIBILITY: RTTY EQUIPMENT IS IN PLACE BOTH IN LUBUMBASHI AND KINSHASA AND HAS BEEN AWAITING INSTALLATION FOR SOME MONTHS; IF THIS EQUIPMENT CAN BE RENDERED OPERATIONAL, CAN THE CAN-DO PACKAGE BE HOOKED INTO THE RTTY PACKAGE FOR TRANSMISSION TO KINSHASA AND ON TO WASHINGTON? OC PLEASE ADVISE IF ABOVE IS FEASIBLE.
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